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IN THE CLAIMS:

Amended claims follow:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for responding to a virus alert, the virus alert containing information pertaining to a new virus, the method comprising:
          receiving the virus alert;
          assessing a risk level associated with the new virus, the risk level indicating a risk of relatively significant damage caused by an infection of the new virus on a computer system, the assessing including: obtaining information associated with at least one previous virus which has caused a previous infection on a computer system, and comparing the information pertaining to the new virus with the information associated with the previous virus which has caused the previous infection on the computer system; and
          obtaining a program code whenbased on the risk level; indicates that the new virus may pose a significant risk of relatively significant damage on the computer system, the program code being configured to substantially combat the new virus
          wherein the previous virus and the new virus are of a first type, and the information associated with the previous virus which has caused the previous infection on the computer system includes data associated with a duration of the previous infection and a scope of the previous infection.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 31 wherein when the previous infection has a relatively long duration and a relatively significant scope, the risk level indicates that the new virus may pose thea significant risk of relatively significant damage on the computer system.

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5.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 2̶1̲ wherein the information
associated with the previous virus which has caused the previous infection on the
computer system is stored in a profile on a database associated with the computer system.

6.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the virus alert is received
from an anti-virus information source.

7.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the virus alert is
automatically received from the anti-virus information source.

8.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 7 wherein receiving the virus alert
includes acquiring the virus alert from the anti-virus information source.

9.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the computer system is a
computer network, the computer network including a plurality of computing devices.

10.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product responding to a virus alert, the
virus alert being arranged to provide information pertaining to a new virus, the computer
program product comprising:

        computer code for receiving the virus alert;

        computer code for assessing a risk level associated with the new virus, the risk
level indicating a risk of a significant new infection by the new virus on a computer
system, the assessing including: obtaining information associated with at least one
previous virus which has caused a previous infection on a computer system, and
comparing the information pertaining to the new virus with the information associated
with the previous virus which has caused the previous infection on the computer system;

        computer code for obtaining program code whenbased on the risk level indicates
that the new virus may pose a significant risk of the significant new infection on the
computer system, the program code being configured to substantially combat the new
virus; and

        a computer-readable medium that stores the computer codes;

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wherein the previous virus and the new virus are of a first type, and the
information associated with the previous virus which has caused the previous infection on
the computer system includes data associated with a duration of the previous infection
and a scope of the previous infection.

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10 wherein the
computer-readable medium is one selected from the group consisting of a hard disk, a
CD-ROM, a DVD, a computer disk, a tape drive, a computer memory, and a data signal
embodied in a carrier wave.

14.   (Currently Amended) A computer system suitable for responding to a virus alert,
the virus alert being providing information pertaining to a new virus, the computer
system comprising:
          computer code for receiving the virus alert;
          computer code for assessing a risk level associated with the new virus, the risk
level being arranged to indicate a risk of a relatively significant infection by the new
virus on the computer system, the assessing including: obtaining information associated
with at least one previous virus which has caused a previous infection on the computer
system, and comparing the information pertaining to the new virus with the information
associated with the previous virus which has caused the previous infection on the
computer system;
          computer code for obtaining code whenbased on the risk level indicates that the
new virus may pose a significant risk of the relatively significant infection on the
computer system, the code being configured to substantially combat the new virus;
          a computer-readable medium that stores the computer codes; and
          a processor that executes the computer codes;

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<u>wherein the previous virus and the new virus are of a first type, and the</u>
<u>information associated with the previous virus which has caused the previous infection on</u>
<u>the computer system includes data associated with a duration of the previous infection</u>
<u>and a scope of the previous infection.</u>

15. - 56.   (Cancelled)

57.   (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 10 wherein when the
previous infection has a long duration and a relatively significant scope, the risk level
indicates that the new virus may pose a significant risk.

58.   (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 10 wherein the
information associated with the previous virus which has caused the previous infection on
the computer system is stored in a profile on a database associated with the computer
system.

59.   (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 10 wherein the virus
alert is received from an anti-virus information source.

60.   (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 59 wherein the virus
alert is automatically received from the anti-virus information source.

61.   (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 60 wherein receiving
the virus alert includes acquiring the virus alert from the anti-virus information source.

62.   (New) The computer program product as recited in claim 10 wherein the
computer system is a computer network, the computer network including a plurality of
computing devices.

63.   (New) The computer system as recited in claim 14 wherein when the previous
infection has a long duration and a relatively significant scope, the risk level indicates
that the new virus may pose a significant risk.

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64.   (New) The computer system as recited in claim 14 wherein the information associated with the previous virus which has caused the previous infection on the computer system is stored in a profile on a database associated with the computer system.

65.   (New) The computer system as recited in claim 14 wherein the virus alert is received from an anti-virus information source.

66.   (New) The computer system as recited in claim 65 wherein the virus alert is automatically received from the anti-virus information source.

67.   (New) The computer system as recited in claim 66 wherein receiving the virus alert includes acquiring the virus alert from the anti-virus information source.

68.   (New) The computer system as recited in claim 14 wherein the computer system is a computer network, the computer network including a plurality of computing devices.